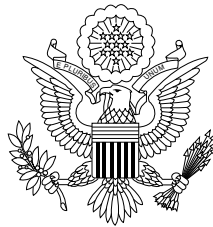


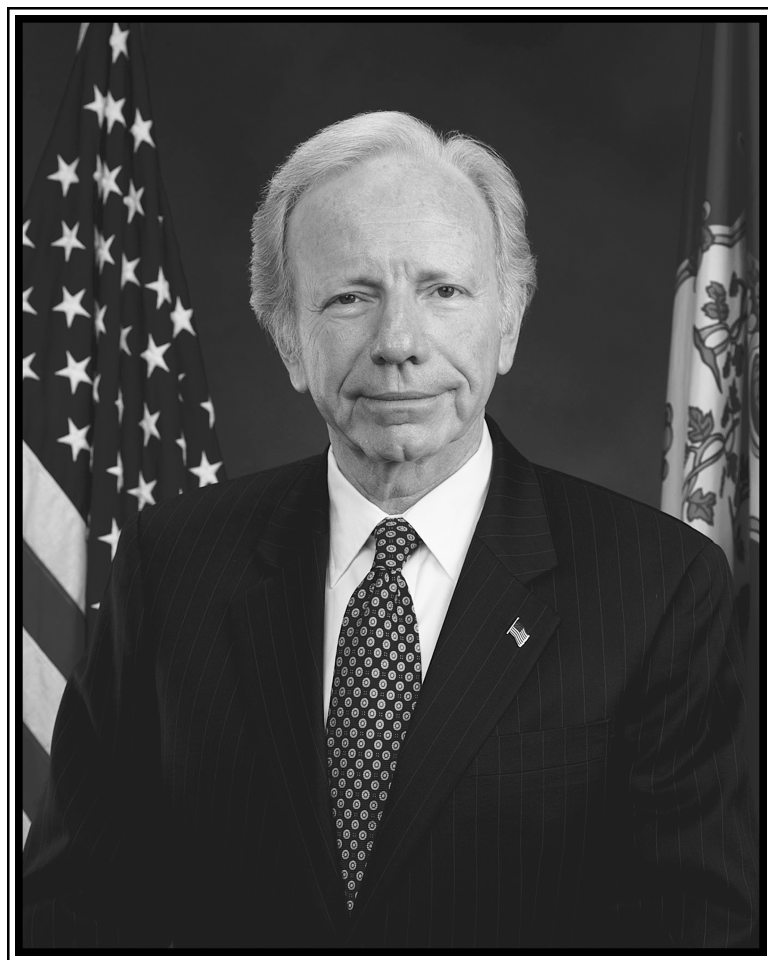
Joseph I. Lieberman

U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES





Joseph I. Lieberman

Courtesy U.S. Senate Historical Office

Tributes  
Delivered in Congress

Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator  
1989–2013



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of the  
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# CONTENTS

	Page
Biography .....	v
Farewell Address .....	vii
Proceedings in the Senate:	
Tributes by Senators:	
Ayotte, Kelly, of New Hampshire .....	16
Blumenthal, Richard, of Connecticut .....	7
Cardin, Benjamin L., of Maryland .....	23
Coats, Daniel, of Indiana .....	28
Collins, Susan M., of Maine .....	3
Conrad, Kent, of North Dakota .....	9
Coons, Christopher A., of Delaware .....	18
Enzi, Michael B., of Wyoming .....	26
Harkin, Tom, of Iowa .....	11
Klobuchar, Amy, of Minnesota .....	29
Leahy, Patrick J., of Vermont .....	22
Levin, Carl, of Michigan .....	20
McCain, John, of Arizona .....	7, 13
Mikulski, Barbara A., of Maryland .....	10
Reed, Jack, of Rhode Island .....	15
Reid, Harry, of Nevada .....	5, 30
Proceedings in the House of Representatives:	
Tributes by Representatives:	
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, of District of Columbia .....	31



## BIOGRAPHY

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN was born in Stamford, CT, on February 24, 1942, and attended public schools there. He received his bachelor's degree from Yale College in 1964 and his law degree from Yale Law School in 1967. He was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1970 and served there for 10 years, including 6 as majority leader. In 1980 he returned to private legal practice for 2 years, and from 1983 through 1988 served as Connecticut's 21st attorney general. As attorney general he took on polluters of Connecticut's environment, strengthened child support enforcement, and built a strong reputation as a defender of consumers' rights.

He was first elected to the Senate in 1988 as a Democrat. He was reelected by wide margins in 1994 and 2000. In 2006 Senator LIEBERMAN was elected to a fourth term as an Independent. He remained committed to caucusing with Senate Democrats.

During his 24 years in the Senate, Senator LIEBERMAN embraced a foreign policy tradition that advocated policies that were simultaneously principled, internationalist, and tough minded in the pursuit of democracy, human rights and freedom abroad, and the survival of freedom at home. Early in his Senate career, he urged the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia; championed NATO as the most successful alliance in the history of the world; and voted to authorize the use of military force after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990. He was a steadfast supporter of U.S. actions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, and Libya during the Arab Spring to end repressive policies of the governments involved and support the democratization, economic growth, freedom, and human rights of the people of those countries.

Throughout his 24 years in the Senate, Senator LIEBERMAN worked to improve the environment. From helping to negotiate the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to consistently working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska and from oil and gas drilling exploration, to fighting to better fund conservation efforts along Long Island Sound and authoring several bills to combat climate change—including the first one ever to make it to the Senate

floor for a vote—Senator LIEBERMAN has been committed to the preservation of our air, land, and water.

He was a strong advocate for investing in public schools, empowering parents, and challenging all students to meet higher academic standards. He sought to give all Americans, regardless of income, the chance to go to college and develop the skills they need to succeed in our global information economy. He worked to expand quality and affordable health care for all Americans and to safeguard Medicare and Social Security for future generations.

Senator LIEBERMAN was a vocal advocate for campaign finance reform and has written extensively on the dignity and nobility of public service. He urged America to be true to its tradition of tolerance by giving faith and its practitioners a place at the national table.

He was chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government. In addition to coauthoring the bill creating the 9/11 Commission, Senator LIEBERMAN spearheaded the congressional effort establishing the Department of Homeland Security and advocated numerous legislative proposals to provide for our national and homeland security. He was a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Airland and sat on the Personnel and Seapower Subcommittees, and on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Senator LIEBERMAN supported equal opportunity for all Americans and economic policies that spark business growth, encourage innovation, expand markets for American products, and keep government's budget books in balance. He was also a champion for the ordinary investor and consumer and fought to ensure that public and private watchdogs meet the highest standards of independence and integrity. Moreover, he led the successful legislative effort to repeal the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which prohibits patriotic gay and lesbian Americans from serving openly in the U.S. Armed Forces.

He lives in Stamford with his wife Hadassah. They are the parents of 4 children and 12 grandchildren.



# Farewell to the Senate

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, my fourth and final term as a U.S. Senator will soon come to an end. As I reflect on that reality, I am, of course, filled with many emotions, but the one I feel most is gratitude—gratitude first to God, creator of life and law, without whose loving-kindness nothing would be possible; gratitude to America, the extraordinary land of opportunity which has given someone like me so many opportunities; gratitude to the people of Connecticut, who have entrusted me with the privilege of public service for 40 years, the last 24 in the Senate; gratitude to my Senate colleagues, whom I have come to know as friends and with whom it has been such an honor to serve; gratitude to all the people without whose help, hard work, and support I never would have made it to the Senate or stayed here, the gifted and hard-working staff in Connecticut and Washington who supported, informed, and enriched my service here, and the volunteers in my campaigns who gave so much and asked for nothing in return except that I do what I believed was right; gratitude to all those who labor out of view in the corridors of this Capitol Building, from the maintenance crews to the Capitol Police and everybody else anywhere in this building—thank you for keeping our Capitol running and keeping us safe; and gratitude most of all, of course, to my family for the love, support, and inspiration they have given me every day of my life—my parents, grandparents, and siblings, my children and grandchildren, and Hadassah, my wife of almost 30 years now, the love of my life, who has been my constant companion, supporter, and partner through this amazing adventure.

So I want to begin this farewell speech by simply saying thank you all. I have a lot to be grateful for. Mr. President, being a Senator, and since this is my farewell speech, I do have a few more things I would like to say.

I am leaving the Senate at a moment in our history when America faces daunting challenges both domestic and foreign and when too often our problems seem greater than our gov-

ernment's ability to solve them. I can tell you I remain deeply optimistic about America's future and constantly inspired by the special destiny I am convinced is ours as Americans.

My optimism is based not in theory or hope but in American history and in personal experience. I think particularly about my time in public life and especially the changes I have witnessed since I took the oath of office as a Senator on January 3, 1989. The fact is that over the past quarter century, America and the world have become freer and more prosperous. The Iron Curtain was peacefully torn down, and the Soviet empire defeated. The eternal values of freedom and opportunity, on which America was founded and for which we still stand, have made global gains that were once unimaginable. We have seen the spread of democracy from Central Europe to Southeast Asia and from Latin America to the Middle East. Hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty in places such as China, India, and just about every other corner of the globe, and technological advances have transformed almost every aspect of our daily lives.

When I started in the Senate, a BlackBerry was a fruit and tweeting was something only birds did. No more. None of these extraordinary developments happened by accident. In fact, to a significant degree, I would say they were made possible by the principled leadership of the United States, by the global economy and international system America created with our diplomacy and protected with our military and by the unique culture of freedom, innovation, and entrepreneurship that flourishes in our country and that remains the model and inspiration for the rest of the modernizing world.

We have every reason to be proud of the progress of humanity that has happened on America's watch and here at home to be grateful for the countless ways in which our own country has benefited in the process. We live in a world whose shape and trajectory the United States, more than any other nation, is responsible for. It is certainly not a perfect world. I know that. But it is a better world than the one we inherited. In my opinion, it is actually in so many ways a better world than has ever existed before.

Here at home, over the past quarter century, we have moved closer to the more perfect union our Founders sought—becoming a more free and open society, in ways I would guess those same Founders never could have imagined.

Barriers of discrimination and bigotry that just a few decades ago seemed immovable have been broken, and the doors of opportunity have been opened wider for all Americans—regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

During my time in Washington, we have had our first female Secretary of State nominated and confirmed and our first African American President elected and reelected. It will forever remain one of my deepest honors that—thanks to Vice President Gore—I was given the opportunity to be the first Jewish American nominated by a major political party for national office—and, incidentally, thanks to the American people, grateful to have received one-half million more votes than my opponent on the other side. But that is a longer story.

While there is still much work to do and many problems to be solved, I believe we can and should approach our future with a confidence that is based on the real and substantial progress we have made together. What is required now to solve the real urgent problems we still have is leadership of the kind that is never easy or common but which we as Americans know we can summon in times of need because we have summoned it before.

Today, I regret to say, as I leave the Senate, the greatest obstacle I see standing between us and the brighter American future we all want is right here in Washington. It is the partisan polarization of our politics which prevents us from making the principled compromises on which progress in a democracy depends and which right now prevents us from restoring our fiscal solvency as a nation.

We need bipartisan leadership to break the gridlock in Washington that will unleash all the potential that is in the American people. So I would respectfully make this appeal to my colleagues—especially the 12 new Senators who will take the oath of office for the first time next month. I know how hard each of you has worked to get elected to the Senate, and I know you worked so hard because you wanted to come here to make a difference for the better. There is no magic or mystery about the way to do so in the Senate. It requires reaching across the aisle and finding partners from the opposite party. It means ultimately putting the interests of country and constituents ahead of the dictates of party and ideology.

When I look back at my own career, the legislative achievements I am proudest to have been part of—such as

passing the Clean Air Act of 1990, stopping the genocide in the Balkans, creating the 9/11 Commission and the Department of Homeland Security, reforming the intelligence community, reorganizing FEMA, and repealing “don’t ask, don’t tell”—all were achieved only because a critical mass of Democrats and Republicans found common ground. That is what is desperately needed in Washington now to solve our Nation’s biggest problems and address our biggest challenges before they become crises or catastrophes.

Our future also depends on our Nation continuing to exercise another kind of leadership; that is, leadership beyond our borders. This too has never been easy or popular. Americans have rarely been eager to entangle ourselves abroad, especially at times when we have faced economic difficulties at home, as we do now. There has been the temptation to turn inward, to tell ourselves that the problems of the world are not our responsibility or that we cannot afford to do anything about them. In fact, the prosperity, security, and freedom of the American people depend more than ever before on what is happening in the rest of the world—and so, too, does the rest of the world depend especially on us.

I know we can’t solve all the planet’s problems by ourselves, nor should we try. But the fact is that none of the biggest problems facing the world can or will be solved in the absence of American leadership. Here, too, I appeal to my Senate colleagues—and, again, especially those who will take the oath of office for the first time early in January—do not listen to the political consultants or others who tell you that you shouldn’t spend time on foreign affairs or national security. They are wrong. The American people need us, the Senate, to stay engaged economically, diplomatically, and militarily in an ever smaller world. Do not underestimate the impact you can have by getting involved in matters of foreign policy and national security, whether by using your voice to stand in solidarity with those who are struggling for the American ideal of freedom in their own countries across the globe or working to strengthen the foreign policy and national security institutions of our own country or by rallying our citizens to embrace the role that we as a country must play on the world stage, as both our interests and our values demand.

None of the challenges we face in a still dangerous world is beyond our ability to meet. Just as we ended the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, we can stop the slaughter in Syria. Just as we nurtured the democratic transitions after com-

munism fell in Central and Eastern Europe, we can support the forces of freedom in the Middle East today. Just as we were able to prevail in the long struggle against the Soviet Union during the cold war, we can prevail in the global conflict with Islamist extremism and terrorism we were forced into by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

All that too will require leadership in the Senate. It will require leaders who will stand against the siren song of isolationism, who will support our defense and foreign assistance budgets, who will use, when necessary, America's military power against our enemies in the world, and who will have the patience and determination when the public grows weary to see our battles through until they are won.

I first set foot in this Chamber almost exactly 50 years ago, in summer 1963, inspired like so many of my generation by President John F. Kennedy and his call to service. I spent that summer right here in the Senate as an intern for my home State Senator, Abe Ribicoff. He was and remains another personal hero of mine. Although I never would have admitted so publicly back then, because it was so presumptuous, I came away from that experience with the dream that I might someday, somehow, return to serve in this place.

I have been blessed to live that dream, and that is what America is all about. We have always been a nation of dreamers whose destiny is determined only by the bounds of our own imagination and by our willingness to work hard to realize what we have imagined. Indeed, long before the United States came into being as a government of institutions and laws, it was a dream—a dream, an implausible, incredible dream, animated by faith of a country defined not by its borders nor by its rulers nor by the ethnicity of its Founders but by a set of eternal and universal principles—that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are God's endowment to each of us.

That was the dream that gave us our existence and our purpose as a nation, and it is the dream that for more than 200 years, through every passing generation, has been reinventing, renewing, enthralling, and surprising us—the very dreamers who are living that dream.

I leave this Chamber as full of faith in the dream called America as when I stood here nearly one quarter century ago to take the oath of office for the first time—and as when I first came here nearly one-half century ago as a 21 year old, the grandchild of four immigrants to America, the son of

wonderful parents who never had the opportunity even to go to college but made sure my sisters and I did and gave us the confidence to pursue our dreams, which was their American dream for us.

America remains a land of dreams and a nation of dreamers. I know my own story repeats itself today in millions of American families and their children. As long as that is so, I know our best days as a country are still ahead of us.

So I will end my remarks where our country began a long time ago—with a dream and a prayer that God will continue to bless the United States of America.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

TRIBUTES

TO

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN





## Proceedings in the Senate

THURSDAY, *December 6, 2012*

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, we have a tradition in the Senate of referring to our colleagues on the Senate floor during debate as “my friend from this State” or “my friend from that State,” and oftentimes the word friend just means colleague. There is a fellow Senator whom I call friend in the truest sense of the word. That person is the senior Senator from Connecticut, my dear friend Senator JOE LIEBERMAN.

When JOE LIEBERMAN announced earlier last year that he would not seek reelection to the Senate, he called himself a lucky guy for having had the opportunity to serve his State and his country. I would contend it is we in this Chamber and the people throughout Connecticut and across our Nation who are the ones who are truly fortunate for JOE LIEBERMAN’s lifelong commitment to public service, including his 24 years in the Senate.

For more than a decade it has been my privilege to serve with JOE as the leader of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Regardless of who has been chairman and who has been ranking member, ours has been a partnership. Indeed, I will never forget when I was losing the chairmanship because of the change in control, JOE leaned over to me and said, “Don’t worry, Susan, all that will change is that you will pass me the gavel.”

It was typical of his thoughtfulness and generosity, and it is not coincidental that ours is the only committee in the Senate where we do not sit with Republicans on one side and Democrats on the other but instead are interspersed because we recognize, given our important mandate, that we must work together in a bipartisan and, indeed, a nonpartisan way.

During the time JOE has been the chairman and that we have worked together, the committee has established a well-deserved reputation for bipartisanship, for thoroughness, and—most important—for getting things done. I know the American people have been so frustrated with the gridlock

that has prevented action on so many issues facing our Nation. For the most part, we do not see that kind of stalemate on our committee and that is a tribute to the leadership of JOE LIEBERMAN. That reputation for our committee—of accomplishment and bipartisanship—is the work of many hands, but JOE LIEBERMAN’s fingerprints are all over it. JOE has always based his leadership on his unwavering belief that the great challenges America faces—such as combating terrorism, putting our fiscal house in order, and defending freedom—transcend party lines.

The success our committee has achieved in helping to safeguard our Nation is the result of that nonpartisan—some might say independent—spirit that guides him. Those successes are many, from the landmark Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act to providing the tools that strengthen our first responders, to our extensive investigations into the flawed response to Hurricane Katrina, the fatal communication failures in the Fort Hood terrorism case, and our current scrutiny of the attacks in Benghazi, JOE LIEBERMAN has always put country first. His actions are guided by deeply held principles and aim toward progress. He has demonstrated his willingness, time and again, to risk his political career to do what he believes is right for America.

JOE brings the same dedication to everything he does. Working with him on the Armed Services Committee, I know first hand how devoted he is to our men and women in uniform and the deep respect he has for their service and their sacrifice. His leadership in bringing about the repeal of the discriminatory “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy was nothing short of extraordinary, and it gives me great personal pride to have assisted him in achieving that important victory for justice. It was vintage JOE LIEBERMAN. He did what was right. He never gave up. He got the job done.

Throughout his many years of dedicated service, JOE has demonstrated the kind of character America needs and the American people deserve. It is not by coincidence that the PowerPoint slide show I present to students throughout Maine includes a photograph of Senator JOE LIEBERMAN at work. The young pupils of today who will be the leaders of tomorrow could have no better role model than this leader of intelligence and integrity.

A wonderful fringe benefit of working so closely with JOE for so many years has been the opportunity I have had to get to know his wonderful wife Hadassah. She is a person who

also demonstrates remarkable strength and compassion. Her devotion to community service spans a range of issues, from advocating for women's health and breast cancer research to providing women with opportunity through microfinance programs.

The integrity and decency JOE brings to public service stands on the unshakable foundation of his deep faith. It is telling that his retirement announcement included these wise words from Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

In closing, I offer my dear friend this traditional Jewish blessing: "May you live 120 years."

While none of us expects to attain the longevity achieved by the prophet Moses, I am confident the gratitude of the American people for the service of Senator JOE LIEBERMAN will be everlasting.

WEDNESDAY, *December 12, 2012*

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to talk this morning about JOE LIEBERMAN.

The very modest apartment, with no hot water, where JOSEPH LIEBERMAN was raised has long since been demolished, but the values he learned in that little apartment—in the flat above his grandparents' house—are still there. They are the same values of devotion and public service that have driven him not only to overcome humble beginnings but to serve the country for 24 years here in the U.S. Senate.

Two years ago, on the day he announced his retirement from the Senate, JOE LIEBERMAN described his rise from cold-water flat to Congress as follows:

My four grandparents ... came to America seeking freedom and they found it. They came to America hoping for opportunities and they got them. But even they could not have dreamed that their grandson would end up a U.S. Senator.

JOE was always a natural-born leader. He was president of his high school graduating class. He got undergraduate and law degrees from Yale—one of the most prestigious universities in the world—where he was chairman of the *Yale Daily News*.

He was a civil rights activist early on as a young man. He was inspired, as many of us were, by the words of John Kennedy. JOE defeated an incumbent to win a seat in the Connecticut State Senate, where he served for 10 years, includ-

ing 6 as the majority leader of the Connecticut State Legislature.

After returning to private practice for 2 years, he served as the first full-time Connecticut attorney general. It was during his years as attorney general that he met the love of his life, Hadassah. Today, they have 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

In 1988 he again took on one of the giants of politics in the State of Connecticut in a race no one thought he could win, but he did. He defeated an incumbent U.S. Senator, and for the last 24 years he has served the people of Connecticut and this country with honor and distinction.

I was pleased to have had an opportunity to support Senator LIEBERMAN's historic candidacy for Vice President in 2000. JOE was the first Jewish major party candidate for Vice President.

Senator LIEBERMAN is a devout and observant Jew. He has even written a book about the importance of keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest. I read the book. I was so impressed with that book. Our Sabbaths may be on different days, but the solemnity of the Sabbath is important to both of us. I was so impressed by that book I bought 20 of them and sent them to my friends and my family, whom I thought would gain a great deal by learning from this book that JOE had written.

JOE LIEBERMAN says his faith is the basis for his strong desire to serve the State of Connecticut and our country. During his four terms representing Connecticut in the Senate, JOE LIEBERMAN played a key role in drafting and passing many different pieces of legislation, including the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, which have literally saved lives by eliminating harmful smog, acid rain, and other toxins in our air and water. He has been chairman of the very important Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He is a powerful voice on security issues, and he has been exemplary in working on a bipartisan basis with Senator Susan Collins, who has been the ranking member of that committee.

JOE led the charge to create the 9/11 Commission and to implement its recommendations. He was a leading voice for the creation of that department, Homeland Security, which we now look to for keeping this country safe.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN was a strong advocate for repeal of the discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy that unjustly

forced gay and lesbian servicemembers into the closet. He fought to ensure our military is the best prepared and best equipped fighting force in the world. We have much in common. We don't always agree on policy issues, but we do 90 percent of the time. Regardless of the few differences we have, I have never, ever doubted JOE LIEBERMAN's principles or his patriotism, and I respect his independent streak as it stems from strong convictions. JOE said it best himself:

I have not always fit comfortably into conventional political boxes. Maybe you've noticed that. Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative. Because I've always thought my first responsibility is not to serve a political party, but to serve my constituents, my State and my country. . . . Whatever the partisan or policy differences that divide us, they are much less important than the shared values and dreams that unite us.

I have watched up close. He has been a wonderful member of the Democratic caucus. I so admire and respect him. I agree with Senator LIEBERMAN's values. He has been an asset to the Democratic caucus and our country. I am pleased to have shared the dream of serving in the Senate with such an extraordinary man and exceptional Senator. I congratulate JOE and Hadassah on their years of dedicated service because they have worked together. I wish them both happiness.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I will have a lot more to say about my friend from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] in the next few days. In the meantime, I wish to thank him for a very important, a very visionary, and very wonderful statement [his farewell address]. We thank him for it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague and friend from Connecticut on behalf of all the people of our State for his lifetime of public service.

Our lives have been intertwined personally and professionally for almost 40 years.

I had the privilege of coming to know Senator LIEBERMAN's family, his parents who gave him the values and ideals he has expressed so eloquently and powerfully repeated throughout America as he did today on the floor of the Senate. That dream, which they inspired, is indeed a uniquely American dream, but it is rooted also in the Stamford and Connecticut community that we share, those ideals of faith, education, and intellect, and those qualities of independence

and courage and perseverance in the face of adversity which he has embodied and taught to so many young people and others around our State and around the country and, of course, the ideals and goals of civility and, maybe most important for this body, the ideal of public service, which he has exemplified through all of these years, an unrelenting, unstinting, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place, person by person, individual by individual, helping make America equal to that great ideal and dream he has articulated so eloquently.

I have been privileged, also, to know JOE's wife Hadassah, who has added so extraordinarily to his life and made possible so many of his achievements. This tribute is to her and his family as well as to him.

For the past 2 years I have had the privilege of working with Senator LIEBERMAN, it has been a real honor, and I look forward to continuing my work with him, although it will no longer be in this Chamber, just as I worked with him before reaching here. In a sense, I followed his professional path as a State senator, as attorney general, and now here.

Many of our colleagues will come to the floor in the remaining days of this session to commemorate the tremendous legacy he leaves. It is a legacy of action, not just of words as we have heard today, but action and achievement. He has been a steadfast supporter of family planning and a woman's right to choose, raising awareness and garnering commitment of congressional colleagues for that cause. He has been a champion of equality and justice, exemplified, for example, in his advocacy of the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." He has been a leader on environmental conservation as attorney general of our State, as well as in this body, especially in the fight to protect Long Island Sound, a treasure of Connecticut and the entire Nation.

He was a leader in bringing to the floor of this Chamber one of the first bills on climate change. His legacy will live on in these efforts: the clean air and water he has helped to protect, the urgency with which he has fought to protect our natural treasures in Connecticut and around the country. His spirit of environmental stewardship will inspire generations to come. That ideal of stewardship is also articulated by his remarks here, the stewardship of democracy, of our Republic.

One of Senator LIEBERMAN's signature accomplishments has been the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in which he aimed to consolidate disparate agencies to

facilitate interagency communication. In the wake of 9/11, he made that a mission and achieved it as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs as well as a leader on the Armed Services Committee. On that committee, Armed Services, he has championed a strong and vital national defense. That remains essential now as it has been throughout his career.

I am grateful to Senator LIEBERMAN's support for a bill I recently introduced, the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act, which addresses the serious problem of human trafficking by Federal contractors and subcontractors. I think his support for that measure demonstrates, again, his commitment not only to equality but helping and working with others in this body on a bipartisan basis who share his goals, as that measure has been, and was, and will be, as is the cause of ending human trafficking and achieving human rights.

Most recently, in a very personal way I observed Senator LIEBERMAN's deep empathy for people who are victims of natural catastrophes. When the recent spate of storms struck Connecticut, Irene and Sandy, I toured with him to stricken places, seeing in his eyes and hearing in his voice his sense of how individuals and their families are affected by any kind of natural disaster. He is a person of heart and of soul—a big heart and a soul that reaches out to people.

I thank him for his great work, his contribution, his unstinting generosity to the people of our State, Connecticut, through all of his years of service in many different positions, in many different ways, in a myriad of places throughout the State and throughout our Nation.

I thank my Connecticut colleague for dedicating his life to public service. I look forward to being with him, if not in this Chamber, in many other places around the country. I continue to admire his great contributions to our country as well as to our State. Thank you, Senator LIEBERMAN.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this term. Senator LIEBERMAN's long career in public service began in the Connecticut State Senate, where he served for 10 years, including three terms as the majority leader. JOE then put his Yale law degree to good use as the attorney general for the State before winning his bid for the U.S. Senate in 1988. He has served in this esteemed body for 24 years, and I am grateful for his dedication and service to our country.

JOE is a true patriot. As Senator, he has made ensuring the security and safety of our Nation his priority. He spearheaded the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002 and has served honorably as the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In this position, Senator LIEBERMAN promoted a forward-thinking security strategy of preparing our military to respond to the unique security threats posed in the 21st century. In particular, he has worked to address cybersecurity issues and prepare our military to respond to evolving warfare tactics.

Senator LIEBERMAN has also worked to ensure that our Nation can stand strong in the face of natural disasters. In 2006, he worked with Senator Collins to make the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, more effective and responsive to communities suffering from the effects of natural disasters. He insisted that FEMA centralize and upgrade its information technology, IT, system to better respond to disasters and the needs of the public.

JOE and I have worked together as members of the Anti-Meth Caucus to fight the methamphetamine epidemic. Senator LIEBERMAN recognizes the threat drugs like methamphetamine pose to the security of our borders, the health of our citizens, and the economic prosperity of our Nation. I was proud to work with him on this important issue.

In 2000 Senator LIEBERMAN ran as the Vice Presidential candidate, becoming the first person of the Jewish faith to represent a major political party on a national ticket. Despite rising to the top of the ticket as a representative of the Democratic Party, Senator LIEBERMAN has frequently demonstrated his willingness to work across the aisle to achieve his vision.

I respect JOE's commitment to his personal convictions and his hard work on behalf of the people of Connecticut. I thank him for his service to our country and wish him all the best.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to comment about some wonderful men in the Senate who are retiring on both sides of the aisle. Earlier today I spoke about my deep affection and sorry-to-see-go friends Olympia Snowe and Kay Bailey Hutchison, but I want to rise as the dean of the women in the Senate to say some very special words about very special men on both sides of the aisle. Because when I came to the Senate, it was only Nancy Kassebaum and me, and yet we worked on so many issues together. There are



really wonderful men here who supported me, supported our issues, but really stood up for those States and their communities. . . .

Then to my good friend, JOE LIEBERMAN—my friend JOE, a true independent. We have worked together on issues related to the Middle East and the safety and security of Israel. We worked to bring character education into our schools because we do believe that character counts.

Working with JOE—whether it was to help create national service, move national legislation, or to say that in our schools we should come to understand the need to teach respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—wow, these were values that should be not only in our schools but throughout our country.

JOE has been so faithful to his religious beliefs. He has also been faithful to the Constitution he was sworn to uphold and to the people of Connecticut. I want him to know we so appreciate his service to Connecticut and to the country.

I wanted to be sure that the day would not end without my acknowledging these wonderful people who have given a big part of their lives to making this country a better place. I want to, in the most heartfelt way—I am so sorry we did not have a bipartisan dinner or party to be able to express this. I would have liked to have been in the same room, breaking bread with them, in order to be able to tell them how much we appreciate them, across party lines, across those lines that ordinarily divide us. They came from different parts of the country, they arrived in the Senate with different objectives, they will leave under different circumstances. But I want to again let them know that each and every one of them had a positive impact on me and I think a wonderful impact on the future of this country. So I wish them well. God bless and Godspeed.

THURSDAY, *December 20, 2012*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the close of the 112th Congress, our friend and colleague Senator JOE LIEBERMAN is retiring after nearly a quarter century of dedicated service in this body to the people of Connecticut and the United States.

As we all know, Senator LIEBERMAN is a fiercely independent Senator who prides himself on speaking his conscience and reaching across party lines in order to get things

done. He is a pragmatist, not a partisan. Yet he has never allowed his ideology or his party or what is popular to stand in the way of doing what he believes is right for Connecticut and the United States of America.

In the years since Senator LIEBERMAN left the Democratic Party to become an Independent, he has sometimes disagreed with his colleagues on this side of the aisle, but he has never been disagreeable. To the contrary, he has been unfailingly decent, gracious, and reasoned. He has been unfailingly a gentleman and a friend, a person with a great sense of humor, and he always has a smile. It is these sterling personal qualities that are a big reason he will be greatly missed by Senators on both sides of the aisle.

During his four terms in this body, Senator LIEBERMAN has earned a reputation as one of the Senate's most influential and knowledgeable voices on interests of national security. In the wake of the attacks of 9/11, he was the lead sponsor of the bill to establish the Department of Homeland Security. As chairman of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senator LIEBERMAN has been a vigilant leader in safeguarding America.

Throughout his distinguished tenure in this body—and before that as a Connecticut State senator and attorney general—JOE LIEBERMAN has been a proud and principled progressive with a passion for social and economic justice for all Americans.

To cite just one example: Senator LIEBERMAN deserves enormous credit for introducing and successfully championing legislation to repeal the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which banned patriotic gay and lesbian Americans from serving openly in our Armed Forces.

As we all know, JOE LIEBERMAN is a person of deep faith, a faith that inspires him to public service and informs his progressive vision for America. Last January, when he announced his decision to retire, he said: "I go forward with a tremendous sense of gratitude for the opportunities I have had to make a difference."

With Senator LIEBERMAN's retirement in the days ahead, a truly distinguished career in formal public service will come to an end. I use the adjective formal because it is hard to imagine that JOE LIEBERMAN will not be finding new avenues for public service as a private citizen.

Senator LIEBERMAN's career in this body will end, but our friendship will continue. I know that his smile and his gra-

cious unfailingly gentlemanly ways will also continue. I wish JOE and Hadassah much happiness in the years ahead.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, one of the most overused quotes about this town is Harry Truman's observation years ago that if you want a friend in Washington, go out and get a dog. I have spent a good many years here now. I suppose there is a little truth in that advice. Some Washington friendships are a little like temporary alliances between nations that for a brief period of time have mutual interests or enemies. But not all friendships here are like that, not all of them.

Today I say a formal fond farewell to a departing colleague whose friendship has been and will always be one of the greatest treasures of my life. My friend Senator JOE LIEBERMAN is retiring from the Senate after 24 years of service. Of course, he is not leaving, nor will he ever leave, the affections of those of us who have come to value him so highly as a statesman and as a friend, but we will not see him around the place as much.

His office will not be near ours. We will not hear him speak from this floor or in committee hearings. We will not have the daily benefit of his counsel and his example. We will miss his contributions to the Senate. We will miss his good humor, his wisdom, and sincerity, especially in those moments when we find ourselves again wrapped around the axle of partisanship and politics that has taken primacy over the Nation's interests, when tempers are frayed and we are consumed with putting each other at a disadvantage. That is when we will miss him the most, on those occasions when JOE's thoughtfulness and patriotism stirred him to remind us again, as he did earlier this week, that the public trust and not our party's fortunes is our most important responsibility.

JOE's presence, his wit, and courtesy and kindness have improved the conviviality of our institution. But more than that, he has set an example that I think our constituents surely wish more of us would emulate. It is his conscience and devotion to America, not his party affiliation, that has inspired his work.

He has been a very accomplished legislator and a recognized leader on national security issues. He is a nationally prominent politician, majority leader in his State senate, the attorney general of the State of Connecticut, elected to the Senate of the United States four times, a Vice Presidential

nominee in 2000, a candidate for President, and I should probably add nearly a nominee for Vice President again.

That he managed to achieve such prominence while being the least partisan politician I know is a credit to his character and to the exemplary quality of his public service and to the public's too often frustrated desire for leaders who seek office to do something, not just to be someone.

He has been a tireless advocate for the rights of the oppressed, the misfortunate, the disenfranchised, and tireless too in his concern for the security of the United States, for the strength of our alliances, the excellence of our Armed Forces, and the global progress of our values. He came here to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God.

It is hard to find anyone here who does not like and admire JOE. He is impossible to dislike, even if one only knows him a little. Most of his detractors seem to be people who do not know him and who tend to view people very strictly through the perspectives of their ideology and partisan identity. The only thing to resent about JOE LIEBERMAN is that he is so damn considerate of everyone that you can find yourself feeling a little ashamed when he catches you raising your voice to someone or behaving in other ways that fall short of his unfailing graciousness.

He is not an easy example to emulate. I have fallen short of his standard more often than I care to concede. But I know, as I suspect most of us know, that our constituents deserve and our country needs more public officials who keep their priorities in the right order, as JOE always has, and who offer their respect for their colleagues without expecting anything in return but our respect.

We spent a lot of time together, JOE and I. We have traveled many thousands of miles together. We have attended scores of international conferences together, met with dozens of world leaders, with human rights activists, and the occasional autocrat. We have visited war zones, shared the extraordinary experience with equal parts gratitude and awe of talking with and hearing from the Americans who risk everything so the rest of us may be secure in our freedom.

I have been able to study JOE at close quarters. He has never failed to impress me as a dedicated public servant, a loyal friend, a considerate gentleman, a kind soul, and very good company. I have also been privileged to witness the sincerity of his faith. I have awakened in the middle of the night on a long plane ride to find JOE in his prayer shawl,

talking to the God he tries very hard to serve faithfully every day. I have witnessed the lengths he goes to always keep the Sabbath, and occasionally I have even filled in as his *Shabbos goy*. I have enjoyed every minute of our travels together. He is a quality human being, and time spent in his company is never wasted.

I have worked with JOE on many issues and opposed him on more than a few. But I have always been just as impressed by him when we disagree as I am when we agree. He is always the same: good natured, gracious, and intent on doing his best by the people who sent him and the country he loves.

He is leaving the Senate, and I am going to miss him a lot. I doubt any of the many friends he has made here will let him stray far from our attention. We will still rely on his wise counsel and warm friendship. I know I will. I hope we are not done traveling together. I hope to see him in other conferences and meetings abroad. I want to go back on the road and learn from him and just pretend he has not left the place that brought us together. He is as fine a friend as I have ever had and irreplaceable in my life, and I cannot let him go.

Thank you, JOE, for all you have done for me; for your many kindnesses, your counsel, your company, and for teaching me how to be a better human being. I will see you again soon.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REED. Madam President, at this time, I wish to take a few minutes to salute my colleagues who are retiring at the end of this year with the conclusion of the 112th Congress: Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, Jon Kyl of Arizona, JOSEPH LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, Richard Lugar of Indiana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Olympia Snowe of Maine, and Jim Webb of Virginia. They have all worked ceaselessly to give their constituents the best representation and give the country the benefit of their views, their wisdom, and their experience. They are men and women who are committed to the Nation, and they have every day in different ways contributed to this Senate and to our great country.

I wish to thank them personally for their service, and, in so many cases, their personal kindness to me; for listening

to my points and for, together, hopefully, serving this Senate and this Nation in a more positive and progressive way.

In particular, let me say a few words about some of the Members with whom I have had the privilege to work more closely. . . .

JOE LIEBERMAN and I have worked many hours to protect the submarine industrial base that is crucial not only to our strategic posture but also to our local economies. He has done it with great vision and great energy, and I thank him for that. . . .

I could go on with all of my colleagues, just thanking them for their friendship, for their camaraderie, and for their commitment to the Nation and the Senate. As they depart, they have left an extraordinary legacy. Now it is our responsibility to carry on in so many different ways, and I hope we measure up to what they have done. If we do, then we can go forward confidently.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to say a few words about my friend JOE LIEBERMAN, the gentleman from Connecticut.

Shortly after I arrived in the Senate, Senator LIEBERMAN was assigned to serve as my mentor—someone from the other side of the aisle who would be a source of wisdom and guidance as I made my way in my first term in the Senate.

I considered myself extremely fortunate that he agreed to mentor me. We are both from New England. We both had the privilege of serving our State as attorney general and have a deep respect for the rule of law. And we are both deeply concerned about issues impacting the security of our country.

Over the last 2 years I have been able to work with Senator LIEBERMAN more closely, and I have personally seen his character, his courage, and his conviction. Both in tone and in substance, Senator LIEBERMAN has been one of the most respected and effective statesmen in the history of this institution—someone who transcended politics to stand up for what he believed in and what he believed was right on behalf of our country.

Senator LIEBERMAN understands that neither party has a monopoly on good ideas and that the American people expect

Members of both parties to work together to get things done on behalf of our country.

Senator LIEBERMAN understands that our children will not ask us whether we were Democrats or Republicans and how good we were at that, at being a member of a party; they will ask us whether we were willing to make the tough decisions necessary to ensure that they continue to enjoy prosperity and freedom in the greatest country on Earth.

What I admire about my friend JOE LIEBERMAN is that he is someone who always puts country first above all else. For Senator LIEBERMAN, this has been especially true in the area of national security and homeland security.

As our Nation has encountered difficult economic headwinds at home—over \$16 trillion in debt—there have been Members of both parties who have argued for excessive cuts to our military and that we disengage from the rest of the world. Yet, in the great traditions of Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan, Senator LIEBERMAN has made the compelling case that the United States best promotes its values and protects its citizens when we remain engaged around the world, maintaining our military strength, having the best military in the world.

Having had the chance to work with Senator LIEBERMAN on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I observed his inspiring commitment to our men and women in uniform. He has shown a deep commitment to make sure they have the best equipment they need and that we remain the strongest military in the world; and that when our soldiers come home, they receive the support they need. He has been such an amazing advocate for the military and their families.

I also appreciate that, like Winston Churchill, Senator LIEBERMAN understands the value of alliances between democracies and has spoken with moral clarity regarding the enemies of freedom. He has not hesitated to call terrorism an evil by its name and to speak out for dissidents and freedom fighters around the world.

I will never forget a trip I had the privilege of taking with him to Asia, where we had the opportunity to meet individuals who were imprisoned. They spoke with tears in their eyes of the work Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator McCain and others had done to speak up on their behalf.

Senator LIEBERMAN has spoken for those who have been oppressed around the world time and time again, and he has left his legacy on this institution in making sure that Amer-

ica stands for our values and for people around the world who are struggling for basic human rights and freedom.

In this Chamber, he will also, of course, be remembered for the incredibly important work he did as a strong and resolute member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and also as the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He helped to lead the Federal Government's response to 9/11, to those horrible attacks on our country, and every American is safer because of the work JOE LIEBERMAN did as chairman of that committee, and the work he did on the Senate Armed Services Committee in this body—and the work I know he will continue to do when he leaves the Senate.

My friend JOE LIEBERMAN represents the very best of public servants. He has stood firm for freedom, international engagement, and American military strength. He will be remembered among Members of this body not only for his accomplishments but for the way he has conducted himself. Always a gentleman, he has conducted himself with great decency, civility, and humility.

At a time when our country faces great challenges, his quiet and effective leadership and commitment to working across party lines will be sorely missed in this body. He will certainly continue to serve as a model for all of us who remain serving in the Senate, and I know in future endeavors I will certainly seek him out to ask for his advice and counsel as we face great challenges not only here at home but also in terms of our military and the role America plays in the world.

We all admire his leadership here, and it has been a true privilege for me to have had him mentor me the last 2 years. I have learned so much from him. Again, I think he serves as a model public servant of what it means to be committed to doing the right thing for your country.

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. COONS. . . . There are so many other Senators I want to speak about today [besides Daniel Inouye], but let me turn to a few, if I might, and give some insight for the folks who only see Members of this Chamber on cable TV shows or in the give-and-take of election season or who only know them as the cutout and caricatures that the public thinks of as Senators. If there is a common thread between them, it is that they share that loyalty, work ethic, and humility that so characterized Senator Inouye in his decades here. . . .



Those who adhere to the Jewish faith around the world are inspired by the ancient concept of *"tikkun olam"*—"to heal the world"—to challenge each of us who seek to serve each other and our communities. Like Senator Kohl, my dear friend Senator JOE LIEBERMAN has certainly risen to that challenge. He is a man deeply committed to his faith, which has significantly influenced his career and his drive to serve, and it is something I share with Senator LIEBERMAN.

On my very first congressional delegation, my first trip as a Senator just a few months after being sworn in, I visited Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan, and Israel. Senator LIEBERMAN was on a different codel, and our paths crossed and we got to share a Shabbat dinner at the David Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem one night. As he was crossing the room for us to sit, I realized he could be elected mayor of Jerusalem.

As we sat and broke bread and shared, it was a great comfort for me. Earlier that day I had gotten word that Delaware had lost one of our great leaders, Muriel Gilman, a personal friend and a remarkable leader and a person of kindness and spirit. She was a pioneer for women in my State and personified this spirit of *tikkun olam*. So over dinner that night in Jerusalem, Senator LIEBERMAN and I talked about Muriel, about what I had seen in Jordan and in Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and my experience on my first trip as a Senator. It was a remarkable moment. Senator LIEBERMAN was engaging and warm, interesting and passionate as we wove between talk about policy and faith, and he reflected with me on the point of his own life when his religion became his faith, when he really took ownership of the religion of his birth and how that faith and its lessons have shaped his public service. For me as a young Senator, it was a formative moment.

His passion for the stability of the world and the security of the United States and our vital ally, Israel, and his dedicated work for the clarity of the air we breathe and his tireless advocacy for the equality of all Americans regardless of whom they love have been an inspiration. His desire to work together and find responsible compromise has been motivating.

I am deeply grateful to JOE LIEBERMAN for his service, his counsel, his friendship, and his lesson that no matter what faith tradition we are from, we can use our service in this Chamber as an opportunity to repair our world.

So here we are, 5 days before my family celebrates Christmas and 12 days before the new year and the beginning of the so-called fiscal cliff. Our politics have paralyzed this Chamber and this town. But what the example of all of these remarkable Senators has shown us, what it has taught me is that we can still be better than our politics.

The humanity of this place, too often shoved aside by the politics of the moment, shows us that we can do better. One by one, these Senators, in delivering their farewell addresses to this Chamber, stood at their desks and each in turn urged us to find a way to return to the days when Senators knew each other and worked together. What will it take to get us to that point again—a horrific tragedy in an elementary school, a dangerous economic cliff, some devastating attack, a cyberassault on America?

Our retiring colleagues are each telling us, each in turn, that it is not too late to restore the humanity of this Chamber and make a positive difference in the lives of all we serve. Will we heed their call? I hope and pray we will because we can do better. We must do better. And in the spirit of each of these departing colleagues, I will do my level best. I hope we all can commit to doing the same.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

FRIDAY, *December 21, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in a few days the Senate will no longer benefit from the service of a member who has left an indelible mark on national security policy and on the Senate. Senator JOE LIEBERMAN has been my colleague and friend for more than two decades. We have shared triumphs and challenges, agreed and disagreed with one another, and each of us has served as a member of a committee the other chaired.

One challenge we have shared is the need to strengthen our Nation's manufacturing sector, the economic backbone of our two States and indeed of the Nation. Senator LIEBERMAN has served as chairman of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus, which has benefited greatly from his energy and leadership. He has been a dedicated supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers strengthen and grow in the face of international competition. In this work, Senator LIEBERMAN has been an ally of Michigan working families.

Of course, Senator LIEBERMAN and I have worked together on the Armed Services Committee, where he has been an active, thoughtful, principled and energetic member and subcommittee chairman. Senator LIEBERMAN joined the committee in 1993, and from the start, he made an impact. He was the author of what came to be known as the Lieberman Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, directing the Department of Defense to conduct a Quadrennial Defense Review. This review has become an integral part of our Nation's defense planning, encouraging the Pentagon, Congress, and all who contribute to defense strategy to confront tough questions about strategy, capabilities, and resources.

Over several years as chairman or ranking member of the Airland Subcommittee, Senator LIEBERMAN has played an influential role in oversight of important modernization programs. His constant attention and leadership has helped the Army push through the challenges of acquiring and fielding the truly networked tactical force our Nation needs, and of modernizing its helicopter force. He has provided close oversight of aircraft programs such as the F/A-18E and F, F-22, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and the new KC-46 aerial refueling tanker.

Of course, the committee has grappled with a number of difficult policy questions over the last two decades, from the need to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" to the conduct of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Senator LIEBERMAN was the original sponsor of the legislation that repealed "don't ask, don't tell," and he played an important role in shepherding this legislation through the Armed Services Committee and the Senate. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Senator LIEBERMAN on these issues, it's impossible to doubt his thoughtfulness and his dedication to finding the right solutions for our Nation.

Senator LIEBERMAN is my chairman on the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. I'm privileged to chair that committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, where a small but incredibly talented and dedicated staff has made immense contributions to consumer protections, government oversight, and our defenses against financial wrongdoing. I am deeply grateful for Senator LIEBERMAN's support for our subcommittee's work.

We also have worked closely on the committee's efforts to protect Americans from potentially catastrophic releases from chemical facilities. I was a cosponsor on legislation he

authored with Senator Collins to address that threat, and I am thankful for his leadership in putting in place these vital protective standards. Senator LIEBERMAN's work has also included badly needed reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster; improving our cybersecurity protections; and improving our defenses against disease pandemics.

The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is also where Senator LIEBERMAN has accomplished what is likely his most lasting work: reform of our homeland security and intelligence communities in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Reforms of this scope by necessity have many authors, but certainly Senator LIEBERMAN's role was at the forefront. His leadership was instrumental in passage of legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and in achieving vital reforms to the structure and practices of our intelligence agencies in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. These were sweeping, once-in-a-generation reforms, and Senator LIEBERMAN was tireless in his advocacy for them.

In these and so many other ways, Senator LIEBERMAN leaves an important and lasting legacy as he prepares to leave the Senate. He is a trustworthy confidant and I shall miss him. Barbara and I wish JOE and Hadassah every happiness as they embark on their next adventure together.

THURSDAY, *December 27, 2012*

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a Senator of 24 years, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN this year retires from this Chamber. He has represented the people of Connecticut for years, first as a State senator, and then as the State's attorney general.

Senator LIEBERMAN has been a constant voice in national security matters. I worked with him in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and since then, he has served as the top Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He has worked to strengthen the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the aftermath of disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I worked with Senator LIEBERMAN in 2002 on the E-Government Act, a key privacy law that required the government to improve access to information on the Internet. A

chief architect of that bill, it has become an important transparency law and a valuable tool in protecting individual privacy protections.

Senator LIEBERMAN has been a dedicated proponent of examining the impacts of climate change. He has worked to find a compromise to move the Senate forward on meaningful climate change and cap-and-trade legislation. Despite Connecticut's small dairy industry, Senator LIEBERMAN has been a true partner in advancing the needs of dairy farmers in Vermont and across the country.

Senator LIEBERMAN has earned the respect of both Democrats and Republicans. Like so many other retiring Senators, he has urged the Senate to pursue avenues of bipartisanship. The bipartisan legacy he leaves is one example we can all follow moving forward. I wish him and his wife, Hadassah, the best in his retirement.

FRIDAY, *December 28, 2012*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the Senators who will not be returning when the 113th Congress commences next month. I have already spoken about Senator Kyl and about Senator Inouye, one of the truly great Americans and giants of this institution. At the time of his death, Senator Inouye was just a few weeks short of celebrating 50 years of Senate service. Only Senator Byrd served in this institution longer.

Turnover is a natural occurrence, but it's important to acknowledge that the Senators who are departing have served in the Senate for a combined total of 237 years, or nearly 20 years per Senator, on average. Add Senator Inouye, and the total is close to 300 years. That service represents an enormous amount of expertise on issues ranging from national defense and foreign affairs to the Federal budget to energy policy. The departing Senators will also take with them vast institutional knowledge and bipartisan friendships and working relationships that will leave a void we will need to fill. . . .

Mr. President, few Senators have struck as independent a path in recent years as Senator JOE LIEBERMAN. He was the first prominent Democrat to chastise then-President Bill Clinton for his affair with Monica Lewinsky, but did not support removing the President from office. He was the Democratic Party's nominee to be Vice President in 2000—the first

Jewish candidate on a national party ticket in American history. Senator LIEBERMAN has confounded people because he has been willing to follow his conscience and to place principle over party loyalty.

Senator LIEBERMAN is a proud son of Connecticut. His parents ran a liquor store in Stamford; both his paternal and maternal grandparents were immigrants from Poland and Austria, respectively. He graduated from Yale University—the first member of his family to graduate from college—and then received his law degree from Yale Law School. In 1970, when Senator LIEBERMAN was just 28, he was elected to the Connecticut State Senate as a “reform Democrat.” He served in the State senate for 10 years, including 6 as majority leader. In 1982 he won the first of two terms as Connecticut’s Attorney General, and was immensely popular for championing environmental and consumer protection.

Senator LIEBERMAN pulled off perhaps the biggest upset of the 1988 election cycle when he defeated incumbent Republican Senator Lowell Weicker in a close race, winning by just 10,000 votes. But 6 years later, when Democrats lost control of both Houses of Congress, Senator LIEBERMAN won reelection with over 67 percent of the vote. In 2000, while he simultaneously ran for Vice President, he received over 63 percent of the vote for the Senate seat he held.

Here in the Senate, Senator LIEBERMAN has been a strong advocate of recruiting, training, and equipping a 21st century fighting force and using it to defend America’s security, values, and interests. Senator LIEBERMAN was one of five Democrats to cosponsor S.J. Res. 2, which authorized the use of force in the first gulf war in 1991. He partnered with Senator McCain to push for U.S. intervention in the Balkans in the 1990s, and he was a proponent of former President George W. Bush’s surge strategy in Iraq.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Senator LIEBERMAN led the charge to establish the 9/11 Commission, whose mission was to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the attacks. Then, in response to the Commission’s recommendations, Senator LIEBERMAN worked with Senator Susan Collins to implement the largest reorganization of the intelligence community in over half a century. As chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN led congressional efforts to establish the Department of Homeland Security, which integrated all or part of 22 different Federal departments and agencies. He has since continued to oversee

the department's work in his position as ranking member of the committee between 2003 and 2006 and as chairman again since 2007.

Senator LIEBERMAN is a committed environmentalist. He played a key role in drafting and passing the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, which established the sulfur dioxide cap and trade program to combat acid rain, one of the most successful programs in history. He has introduced every major climate change bill in the Senate, and every bill that has been brought to the floor for a vote. In 1994 Senator LIEBERMAN worked with then-Representative Nancy Johnson, a Republican, to secure wild and scenic river status for the Upper Farmington River, the first in the State of Connecticut. He has led several successful filibusters against legislation that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, to oil and gas exploration; he also has introduced legislation every 2 years to protect ANWR permanently.

In 1994 Senator LIEBERMAN introduced the Video Game Ratings Act, held hearings on violence in video games, and played an important role in establishing a ratings system and restricting sales of mature games to minors. In the wake of the terrible tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, he has called for the creation of a national commission to study gun violence in a comprehensive way. In 1998, Senator LIEBERMAN introduced and helped pass the Charter School Expansion Act, which expanded the number of high-quality charter schools available to children across the United States. Three years later, he was a lead sponsor of the No Child Left Behind legislation, NCLB. Because of his involvement, he was invited to join the NCLB Conference Committee despite not serving on the committee of jurisdiction. In 2007 Senator LIEBERMAN was a lead sponsor of the National Innovation Act and the National Innovation Education Act. These were underlying pieces of the final American COMPETES Act, intended to spur innovation and ensure that our workforce has the education and skills necessary to compete in a global economy. In 2010 Senator LIEBERMAN led the successful fight to repeal the Department of Defense's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. He also has introduced legislation to provide domestic partnership benefits to Federal employees, and was an original cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Senator LIEBERMAN is a highly accomplished Senator because he has put pragmatism above ideology and because he

has been willing to forge bipartisan alliances and compromises. He is a deeply religious man whose motto might well be the prophet Isaiah's plaintive cry, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). The Senate will miss his devotion to public service, cheerfulness, and optimism. . . .

Mr. President, these men and women who will be leaving the Senate soon have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve our Nation. We are fortunate that they have chosen to spend significant parts of their lives in public service. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude. Those of us who will be in the Senate next month when the 113th Congress convenes can best honor the legacy of our departing colleagues by reaching across the aisle as they have done so many times to forge bipartisan consensus and solutions to our Nation's most vexing problems. The men and women who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this Congress understand that compromise isn't a dirty word; it is the genius at the heart of our political system. We will miss them.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, at the end of each session of Congress, the Senate takes a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of those retiring Members who will not be a part of the next Congress when we reconvene in January. We offer each of them our thanks for a job well done. JOE LIEBERMAN is such an individual, and he has brought so much to our work in the Senate over the years. We will miss him.

Ever since he arrived here in the Senate JOE has always seen our deliberations as not so much a matter of party so much as it has been about each issue taken individually. That is why we see him as such a thoughtful legislator. He examines every matter that comes before the Senate, taking stock of how it will impact his home State of Connecticut and the future of our Nation, and then he makes a decision on the best course of action for the Congress to take. His ability to sort through each issue focused more on policy than politics has helped him to work with Senators on both sides of the aisle—and bring something important to each discussion. That is why the people of Connecticut kept bringing him back for another term. Simply put, they saw him in action in the Senate, visited with him when he would return to Connecticut, and they liked what they saw.

I got to know JOE as we worked together during a trip to South Korea. The Kyoto Conference had concluded and South Korea was in the midst of a series of problems. The outlook was troublesome and action needed to be taken on



a priority basis. The problems were magnified by the election that was going on and the monetary crisis that was being played out in the midst of all of that political campaigning and posturing.

In an effort to be of assistance, the International Monetary Fund had stepped in and was willing to provide the support that was needed in exchange for South Korea's willingness to take certain steps that they believed were essential if any additional elements of the crisis were to be avoided.

The International Monetary Fund asked us to meet with the candidates who were running in South Korea and make them aware of the importance of the current problem and the need to work with the International Monetary Fund toward the solution that had been proposed. It was not going to be enough for them to privately state that they were open to the idea. We needed them to go public with their support for the proposal so that all the candidates would be on the record as being on board with the plan. That would help to strengthen and stabilize the economy and put South Korea on a track toward a long-term solution to their financial problems.

We were so "effective" with our assignment that, after meeting with us, each of the candidates took to the airwaves the next day to make it clear that if they were elected they would rewrite the whole deal.

As soon as they made it clear they were not interested in the proposal that had been made, the value of their currency began to sink like a rock. It hit the maximum loss for 3 days. That was enough to teach each candidate that they had no alternative but to move in the direction the International Monetary Fund had recommended.

As soon as that realization became clear, each of the candidates went back on the airwaves and said that they would comply with the International Monetary Fund's recommendations and pursue the policies that would place the nation on firmer ground. When there is only one viable alternative it makes taking a position on an issue like this a lot easier.

I learned a great deal about JOE on that trip—and from him, too. It was in every sense time well spent both for me and JOE—and for the Government of South Korea as well. That experience has been with me ever since, and I have never forgotten it.

JOE is completing his fourth term and through it all he has been a good representative of the people of Connecticut.

He has been a part of many difficult and complex issues during those four terms. Each day, strengthened by his faith and guided by his strong sense of values and principles, he has taken on each challenge that has come before us and done some very important work for the Nation.

Thanks, JOE, for your willingness to serve. You have compiled a record during your years of service on the State and national level of which you can be very proud. As I thank you for your service, I also want to thank you for your friendship. I have enjoyed having the chance to come to know you and I hope you will continue to keep in touch with us in the months to come.

MONDAY, *December 31, 2012*

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I wish to thank my friend, my longtime friend whom I hate to see leave this body, Senator LIEBERMAN from Connecticut, for his remarks.

I didn't have the opportunity to speak after he gave his farewell remarks. I do wish to say, before I get into the reason I came down here—I am happy to see him here so I can say this—it has been a joy to serve with him over the years.

I am in my second life in the Senate, and during my first life we served together on the Armed Services Committee. We worked on a number of initiatives together, and I was proud to be associated with him. I believe that work strengthened our national economy and our security team around the world. We worked on school vouchers for DC and a number of other initiatives affecting the future of our military and other issues that were of importance to us.

Most important, from my standpoint, we worked together to bring values that each of us cherish based on our faith. JOE is of the Jewish faith, and I am of the Christian faith. We discovered on a trip to Iraq, just after Desert Storm, that we, in talking to each other, shared our respective faiths and how it affected our lives, how it affected our families, and how it helped us form decisions we make. Of course, coming from two different parties, we didn't find agreement on everything, but we found agreement on a number of things, particularly those things where we shared common values, where our faith shared common values and where individually we shared those values.

Under the direction of a rabbi from Chicago we cochaired the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, bringing to-

gether Jews and Christians to talk about what they had in common and what values we could work together on for the betterment of our country and for the betterment of our society. Too often we bring groups together of different persuasions to discuss, argue, and debate the differences. This was different because we brought these groups together, distinguished leaders from both sides, prominent leaders from both sides, to set aside those differences and work to find those values we had in common. It was a joy to participate in that with Senator LIEBERMAN and to cochair that.

We have remained friends. His contributions to our country, not just representing a State but representing America around the world, will long be remembered and will have great impact and effect. We are losing a real talent, and we are losing a real gentleman. We are losing someone who is an example of how he conducts himself and is an example for all of us as to how we ought to conduct ourselves, and we don't always do that.

JOE LIEBERMAN has left a lasting impression on me—and I know a number of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—and he will be sorely missed.

One thing I am happy about is that we will continue a lifelong friendship, and I am looking forward to many more opportunities for Senator LIEBERMAN to work on matters of interest but will enjoy a continued sharing of the commonalities of our Judeo-Christian faiths.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to recognize my colleague JOE LIEBERMAN for his many years of distinguished service and leadership on behalf of our country and the people of Connecticut.

JOE will always have a special place in my heart. As many of my colleagues know, he was actually one of my professors in college. He gave me one of my first introductions to the political process through a seminar he taught on the subject of the national political parties. Interestingly enough, Senator Sherrod Brown also took that same class just a few years earlier. Even more interesting is the fact that everyone remembers what grade I got, but no one seems to recall what grade Sherrod got.

But I digress. Not many political science professors can say they've taught two concurrently serving U.S. Senators. JOE can, however, and I think that's an enormous tribute to his character and genuine zest for public policy. As one of his former students, I made a point of following his career over the years and always admired his political courage. But it

never occurred to me that I might someday be serving alongside him in the Senate.

Working with JOE these last 6 years has been an incredible privilege for me. I've respected him as a policymaker, particularly for his work on national security and climate change. I've admired him for his outspoken leadership and commonsense approach to legislating. Maybe most important, I've genuinely enjoyed him as a friend and a colleague—for his kindness, his wisdom, and his famous sense of humor.

JOE LIEBERMAN has been a truly outstanding voice for the State of Connecticut and a great leader for the people of this country. To say that he will be missed would be a tremendous understatement, but I know he will continue to find ways to improve our great country and give back to the State he loves so much, even in retirement. Thank you, Senator LIEBERMAN. I wish you the best.

THURSDAY, *February 7, 2013*

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to the retiring Members of the 112th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## Proceedings in the House of Representatives

THURSDAY, *December 13, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. I rise today in strong support of the D.C. Courts and Public Defender Service Act of 2011. I would like to thank Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, the chair of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, which has jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, and particularly Senator Daniel Akaka, the chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight and Government Management and the Senate sponsor of the bill, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia for ushering the bill through subcommittee and committee and getting it passed by voice vote.

Both Senators LIEBERMAN and Akaka are retiring this year. They each will leave rich legacies of accomplishment to the Nation, and both Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator Akaka have always been good friends of the District of Columbia. They will be very much missed in both Chambers by all of us, I know, but particularly by the residents of the District of Columbia. . . .

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